

John Henry Eaton to Andrew Jackson, December 30, 1821, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN H. EATON TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 30, 1821.

D'r Genl, I have so much business on hand arising out of our Committees, and various letters to reply to that I am afraid my friends will find in me a bad correspondent. It is no easy matter either to make out a letter in hurried moments, where there is nothing to write about; and this has been and yet is my situation. Out of Congress nothing grows of moment or interest: they have done nothing and it is difficult to say whether any thing is to be done, or indeed can be done while all is manouver after the Presidential chair. Already are three (as a sportsman would say) on the turf, ready for entrance as their keepers may pronounce them passed of sufficient fleetness and bottom: they are all from the Cabinet. Not at all privy to any passing intrigue, I can hasard scarcely an opinion of what the result *here* may be.

That Congress will *caucus* and make a nomination I have no doubt, judging from present appear[an]ces; but who 'twill be is a matter quite uncertain. This winter and the next will be mere *feeling*, and attempts to impress thro the members of Congress the public mind in some way. That Mr. Adams is greatly weakened in the number of his frends I have little doubt: his strength is not what it was the last and the previous winter: It is urged that the Eastern federal party, apart from sectional considerations will not support him, while the republicans of the old school are wavering, hesitating and whispering a want of confidence in the *family* of the *Braintree's*. Crawford is and has for two winters been declining. his frends tho are playing him off with all necessary and due diligence, while he is laboring

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in the vineyard, and seeking to impress the public mind with the prosperous state of his Department, and that in the finance department all is well.

Notwithstanding our flattering acc's it will be questionable if we go hence without a loan; every attempt tho will be made to play off this matter with great dexterity and to sustain the credit of the Treasy. Dept. The member from Missi. (Rankin) has called for information as to what is meant by unavailable funds (western uncurrent money) and how and when it was obtained.¹ I have little doubt but that a good deal of our funds more than is looked for is dormant under this head, too dormant to enter into the current expences of the year. Calhoun is also on the Presidential Carpet and moving on with goodly prospects: report here

1 Dec. 28. *Annals of Congress*, 17 Cong., 1 sess., I. 594.

is that the Pensyla. members will all support him. Upon the whole the Cabinet counsel have opened a vigorous campaign, and many a fine turkey, Duck etc. will fall victims in the conflict. I assure you upon this subject we have every prospect of a busy session.

Nothing is spoken of now about Calava, all noise and opposition upon this subject seems to have died away; if any assault is meditated a few days more will I suppose shew it. . . .